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HEALTH  
MAY 56  
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NEWENT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
for the Year  
1955  
M. L. SUTCLIFFE  
T.D., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.





RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEWENT

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Hygiene Conditions and Vital Statistics of the District for the year 1955.

It includes the report of the Sanitary Inspectors and is compiled to conform with Articles 6(3) and 17(5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and it incorporates the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular 17/55, dated 23rd November, 1955.

In accordance with the above circular, the distribution of this report is a wide one, and includes:-

The Ministry of Health.  
The County Medical Officer of Health.  
The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.  
The Ministry of Housing and Local Government.  
The Ministry of Labour and National Service.

The main duties of the Council are in connection with housing, water supplies, sewerage and refuse collection. Excellent progress has been made with regard to water supplies and refuse collection since the war. Before the war, for example, only the town of Newent had its refuse collected by a horse drawn cart, whereas now, every Parish is served by a modern motor lorry.

The problems for the Council are now sewage disposal for the town, which is being dealt with; and housing.

With regard to housing, I think a reasonable view is to consider all working class houses built in the 19th or earlier centuries as unfit for habitation, unless considerable improvements have been carried out on them in the last few years. Housing (old or new) should be according to the standards of the Council's Building Byelaws.

No one would now be satisfied, for example, with medical treatment or transport methods of the 19th century, but the same attitude is not unfortunately considered as necessary in the case of housing, which is, of course of the greatest Public Health importance.

The general health of the District has been good during the year and the very low infantile mortality rate compared with England and Wales is most satisfactory. It is also satisfactory to note that the birth rate is somewhat higher, and the death rate a good deal lower than those for England and Wales, and that there have been no deaths of mothers in child-birth since 1946.

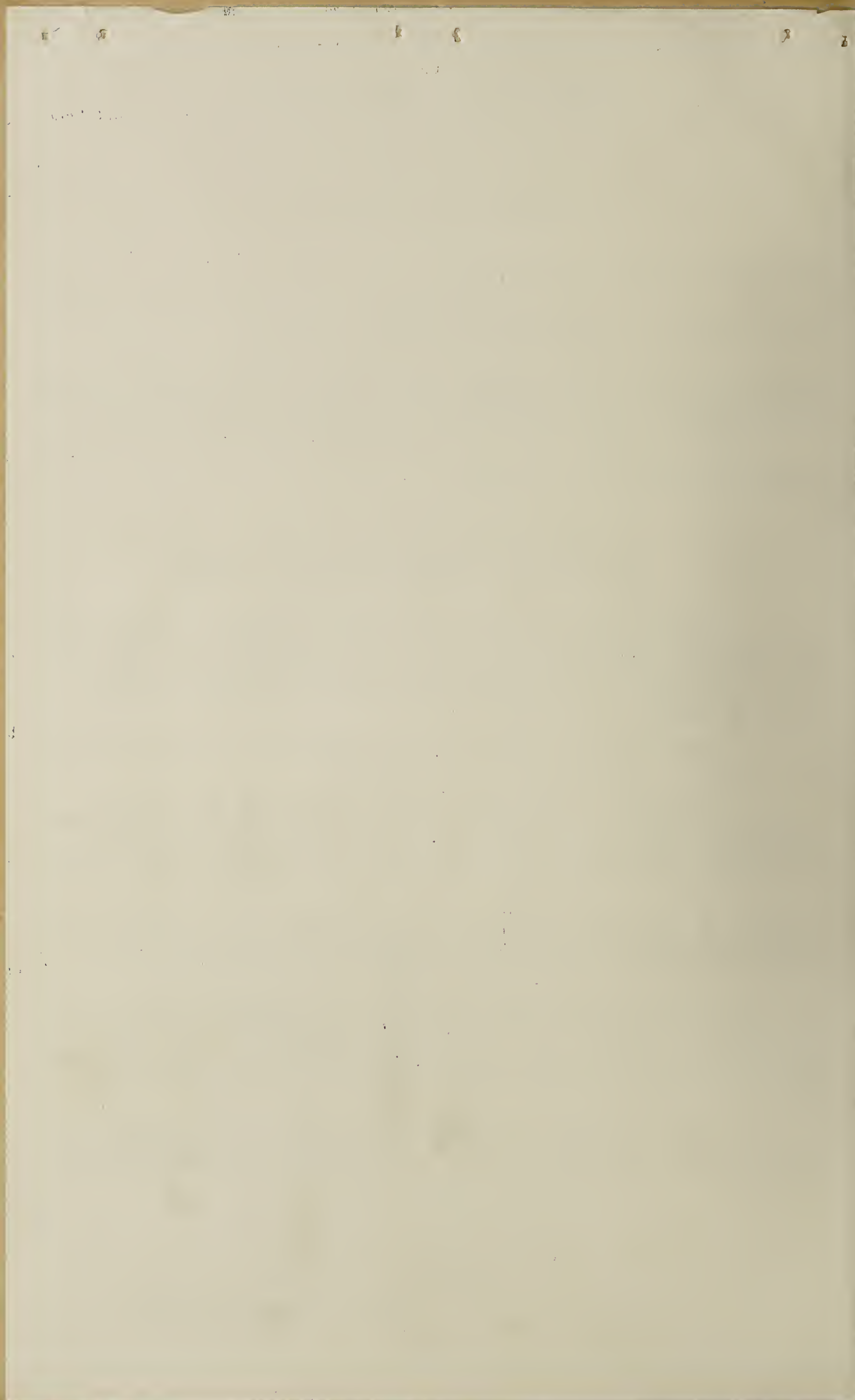
This report deals largely with the work of the Sanitary Inspectors, and my thanks are due to them and also to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their invaluable assistance.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

MAURICE L. SUTCLIFFE.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.





## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

M.L. SUTCLIFFE, T.D, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.P.M., Medical Officer of Health. Medical Officer of Health to the Tewkesbury Borough, Gloucester Rural and Newent Rural Joint M.O.H. Committee, and County Divisional Medical Officer of Health for No. 5 Division (Gloucester Area Health Sub-Committee).

H.S. JENKINSON, A.I.A.S., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor. Inspector under Petroleum Acts and Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

B.G.H. RISBEY, C.R.S.I., Assistant Sanitary Inspector. (Resigned 1st December, 1955).

MISS M.C. DAVIS. Clerk.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area (in acres), 40,845.

Population Registrar-General's estimated Home Population mid-1955, 8,270.

Number of Inhabited Houses (December 31st, 1955) according to Rate Books, 2,568.

Rateable Value (December 31st, 1955), £30,123.

Sum represented by a penny rate (31st March, 1955), £120.11.8.

General Rate 1955-56, 21/6d. (County Precept) 17/6d.

Occupation in the District is almost entirely agricultural and fruit farming, and local employment has hardly changed during the last 100 years or more. Thanks to transport facilities, numbers of residents find employment in the neighbourhood of Gloucester. The town of Newent is the centre for local shopping and is also the centre for secondary school education in the district.

The possibility of coal mining in the District which was confidently envisaged in the early 19th century, has, fortunately, not come to pass.

## ADOPTIVE LEGISLATION IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

### Byelaws.

- i. Building Byelaws (adopted 1.8.53).
- ii. Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air (adopted 14.8.50).



# VITAL STATISTICS.

These statistics give particulars as to the births and deaths in the District, together with certain rates which are compared, where possible, with those for England and Wales.

A detailed list of the causes of death will be found in Table 23.

Table 1. Infantile Births and Deaths.

	Legitimate.			Illegitimate.			Combined Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Live Births.	64	43	107	2	4	6	113
Still Births.	3	2	5	-	-	-	5
Infant Deaths:							
(a) 0-4 weeks.	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
(b) 4 weeks to 1 year.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 2. Deaths.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Total Deaths.	33	39	72

Table 3. Birth and Death Rates.

	Newent Rural District	England and Wales.
Crude live birth rate per 1,000 population.	13.66	} 15. 0
*Corrected live birth rate per 1,000 population.	15. 6	
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births.	42. 4	23. 1
Crude death rate per 1,000 population.	8. 7	} 11. 7
*Corrected death rate per 1,000 population.	8.35	
Death rate of infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births.	8. 8	24. 9
Death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	9. 3	} Not available
Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	Nil	
Death rate from Puerperal Causes per 1,000 total births.	Nil	0.64

\*Note. - The Corrected Birth and Death Rates are obtained by multiplying the Crude Rates by the factors 1.15 and 0.96 respectively. These factors are supplied by the Registrar-General and serve to make the Crude Rates for the District comparable with the Rates for the Country as a whole.





## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

### Laboratory Facilities.

The examination of pathological specimens, and analyses of milk and ice cream samples etc., is carried out at the laboratory of the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, under the Medical Research Council Scheme. (There is no charge for this work).

Water and sewage analyses, taken by this Department, are carried out by the Council's Analysts, Messrs. Ellis & Turner, Public Analysts, Gloucester.

### Hospitals.

The Council have no responsibility for arranging hospital treatment, except with regard to old people in need of care and attention who are dealt with under the National Assistance Acts.

Infectious disease cases are admitted to Gloucester City Isolation Hospital at Over, which is administered by the Gloucester, Stroud and Forest Hospital Management Committee.

### Ambulance Facilities.

1 County Council ambulance and 3 full-time driver-attendants are stationed in Newent. Infectious disease cases are transported by the Isolation Hospital ambulance.

### Nursing in the Home.

There are 3 District Nursing Associations in the area which are supervised by the County.

The whole District is covered by the nurses, who, in addition to midwifery and home-nursing, act as Health Visitors for the County and carry out school medical work, Health and Tuberculosis visiting etc.

### Home Help Service.

This service is administered by the Area Health Sub-Committee of the County Council.

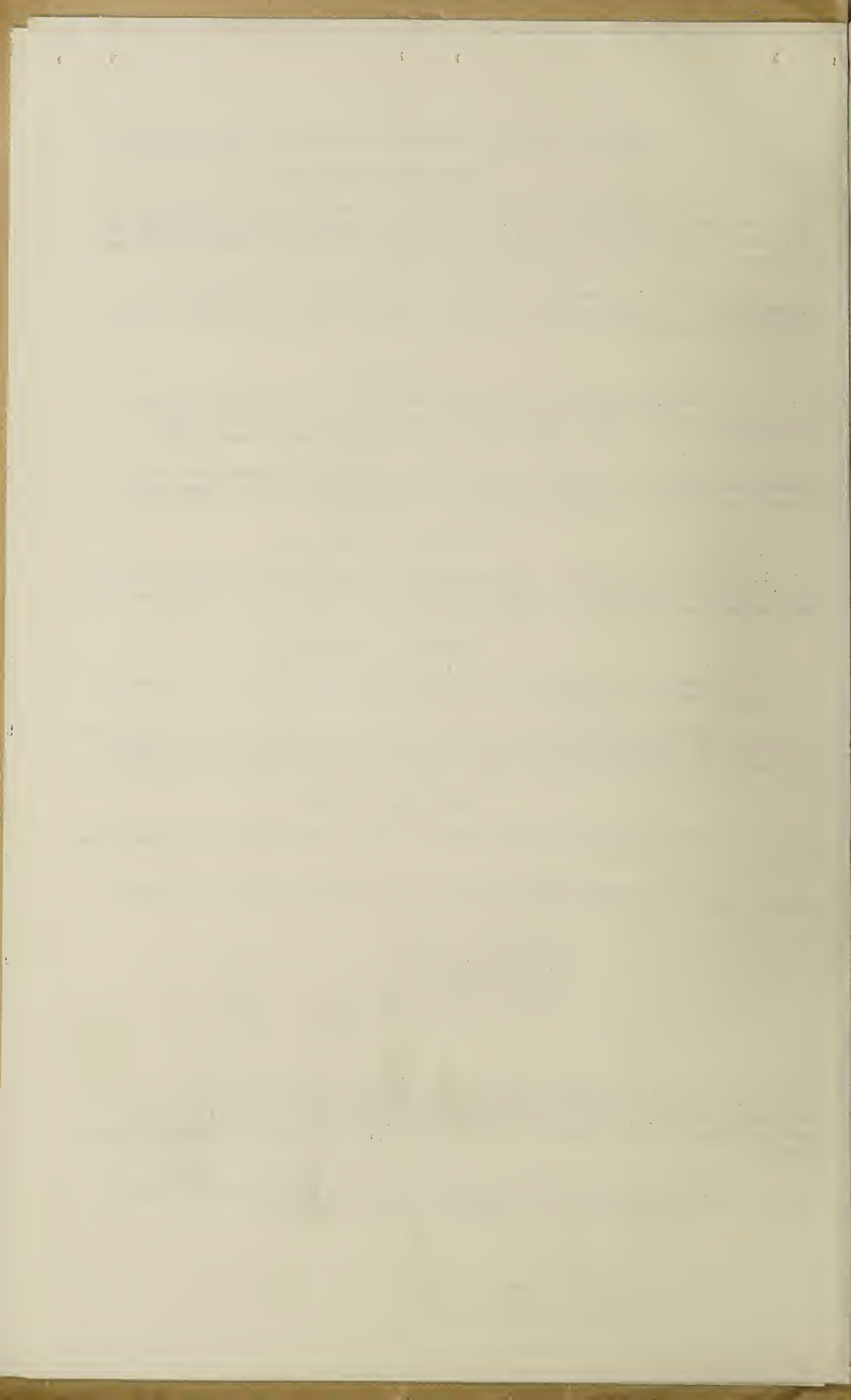
The following types of cases are assisted, and the figures for the 31st December, 1955, were:-

Maternity.	1
General Sickness.	1
Tuberculosis.	1
Chronic Sick or Old Age.	<u>24</u>
Total	27
	—

This total of 27 is one less than in December 1954.

The scheme is very popular and means that many cases cared for are able to remain in their own homes instead of being sent to hospitals or institutions. This results in a considerable saving of the ratepayers money.

There were on 31st December, 1955, 28 part-time home-helps in the District, which is an increase of 2 in the year.



### CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

These Centres are under the general administration of the Area Health Sub-Committee of the County Council, but as this Committee is composed of Members of this Council together with Members of Tewkesbury Borough and Gloucester Rural District Council, it is felt that the following particulars of the work done by the Centres serving the District are of interest.

The Centre at Ashleworth is in Gloucester Rural District, but serves this Council's Parishes of Corse, Hartpury and Staunton (about 50% of the children attending).

The valuable work done at these Centres is shown in Table 4 which is compiled from attendance figures submitted to the Divisional Health Office. Very many thanks are due to the Voluntary Committees and helpers, who can certainly derive great satisfaction from the results of their labours.

Table 4.

Centre.	No. of sessions in 1955.	No. of first attendances.		Total No. of attendances		
		Under 1	Over 1	Under 1	Over 1	Total
Ashleworth.	23	25	17	139	349	530
Dymock.	22	25	17	122	251	415
Newent.	27	33	8	326	574	941
TOTAL	72	83	42	587	1174	1886

### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

These are administered by the County Council, and are held at The Clinic, Picklenash School, Newent.

### MORTUARY.

In 1940, as part of Civil Defence, the Chapel portion of the Cemetery building was converted into a Mortuary. Main water and sewerage are provided. It was used once in 1955.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SECTION 47)  
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951.

These Acts authorise the Council and their Medical Officer of Health to arrange for the compulsory removal of aged and sick persons living in insanitary conditions, to a hospital or residential institution. No action was necessary during the year.

It is not pleasant for your Medical Officer of Health to have to insist on removal of old people from homes they may have occupied for years, and everything possible is done to persuade old people to agree to move voluntarily. Since the Acts came into force, only 4 people have been removed compulsorily, so I feel I am not abusing my powers.







# SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

## Water Supplies.

### Main Supplies.

The 14 parishes in the District all have main water supplies, which compares with only 7 in 1937. Main supplies are provided by Gloucester Corporation and to a lesser extent by Malvern Urban District Council, and their areas of supply will be seen in Table 5. The purification and adequacy of these supplies is the responsibility of the water undertaking, and although hard, they are perfectly satisfactory for drinking purposes.

Since the 1939-1945 War, over 65 miles of new mains have been laid, and the increase of population served has been from 2233 to 5088. This is an increase from 29% to over 60%. These figures are exceedingly satisfactory and not only from the population aspect, but also from the farming aspect, as it means that many more farms now have pure and adequate supplies. This is most important with regard to clean milk production, stock-raising etc.

Extensions of mains in 1955 (by parishes).

#### (a) Gloucester Corporation.

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Size of Main.</u>	<u>Length (yards).</u>
Corse.	3 <sup>11</sup>	259
Dymock.	6 <sup>11</sup>	5170
	4 <sup>11</sup>	5054
	3 <sup>11</sup>	4989
Kempley.	4 <sup>11</sup>	2930
Newent.	4 <sup>11</sup>	909
	3 <sup>11</sup>	2387
Taynton.	3 <sup>11</sup>	341

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12½ miles.

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#### (b) Malvern Urban District Council.

Nil.

Extensions of mains authorised by the Council but not yet laid.

#### (a) Gloucester Corporation.

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Size of Main.</u>	<u>Length (yards).</u>
Hartpury.	3 <sup>11</sup>	2217
Newent.	9 <sup>11</sup>	1700
	4 <sup>11</sup>	370
	3 <sup>11</sup>	1600
Rudford.	3 <sup>11</sup>	704
Taynton.	4 <sup>11</sup>	3077
	3 <sup>11</sup>	1974

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6½ miles.

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#### (b) Malvern Urban District Council.

Nil.



### Water Shortage.

No official complaints of water shortage were received during the year, and this is probably largely due to the increase in main water supplies.

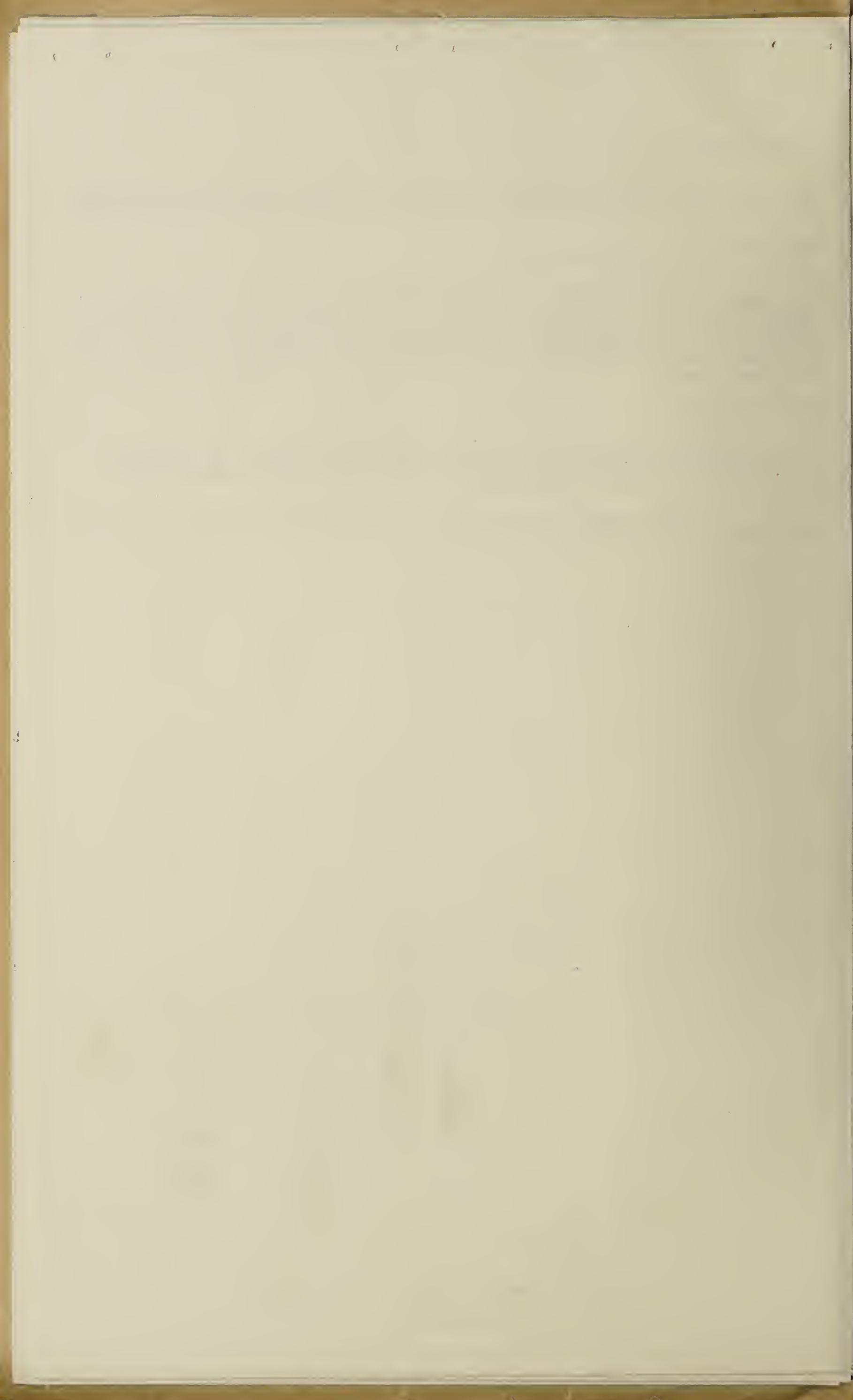
### Malvern Urban District Council.

A Public Inquiry was held on 28th July, 1955, with regard to an application by the Malvern Urban District Council to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, to make an Order under Section 23 of the Water Act, 1945, authorising the Urban District Council to extract water from boreholes at Lintridge. The decision of the Minister has not been made known.

### Well Supplies.

These cannot be considered either satisfactory or adequate for present day needs, and the steady increase in the availability of main supplies is most satisfactory.

15 well supply samples were examined by the Council's Analyst, and only one was considered satisfactory.





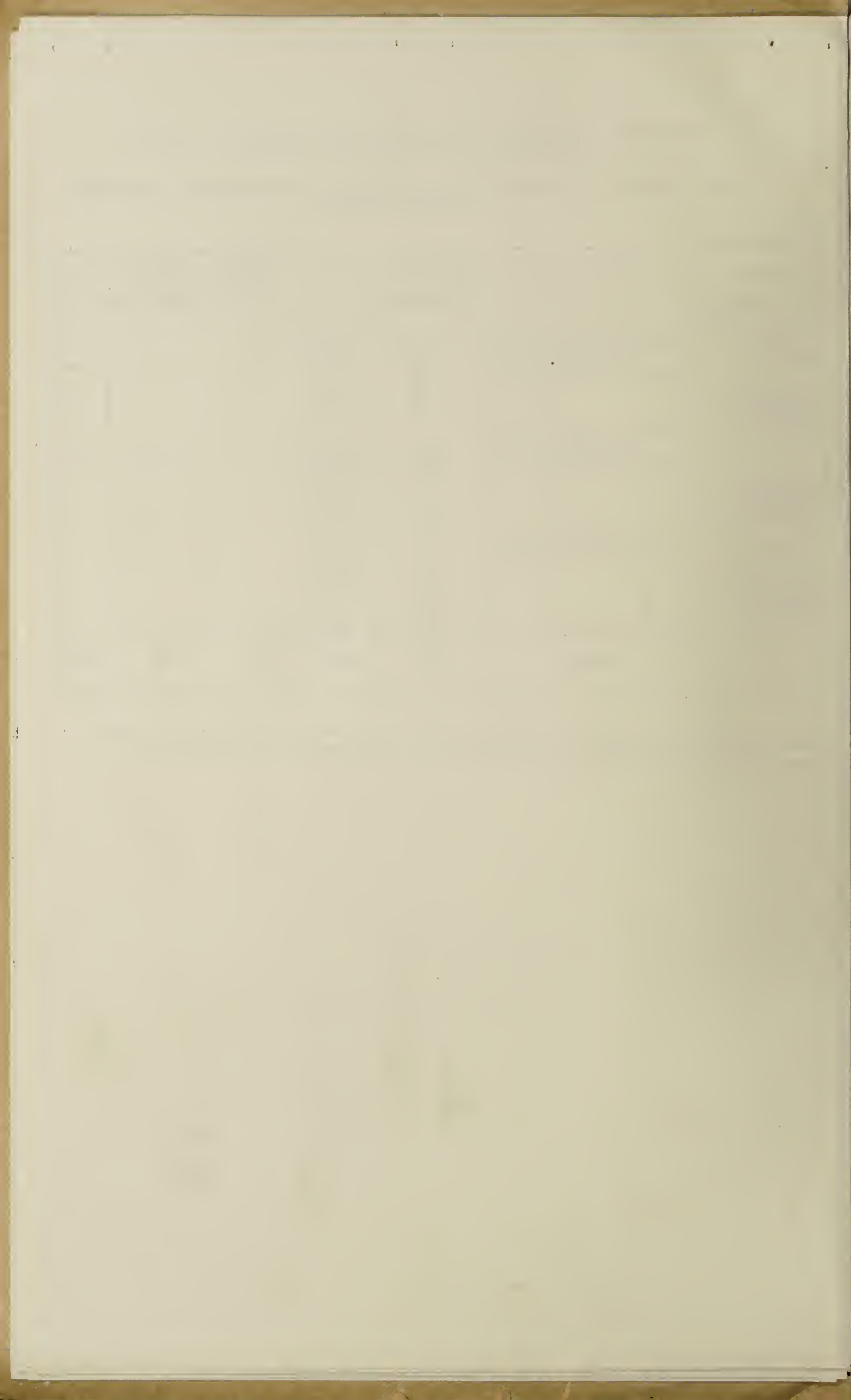
Main Water Supplies in the District showing the Number  
of Houses and Population served.

(These figures are provided in accordance with Ministry of Health  
Circular 17/55).

Table 5.

Parish.	Main Supply.	No. of houses supplied.	Pop.	Stand Pipes (Main)	No. of houses supplied.	Pop.
Bromsberrow.	Malvern U.D.C.	46	148	1	2	6
Corse.	Glos. Corporation.	61	196	—	—	—
Dymock.	Malvern U.D.C.	43	138	4	26	84
Hartpury.	Glos. Corporation.	142	457	—	—	—
Kempley.	" "	94	303	—	—	—
Newent.	" "	49	158	—	—	—
	Newent Town (Glos. Corporation).	450	1449	7	19	61
	Glos. Corporation.	211	679	—	—	—
Oxenhall.	" "	42	135	—	—	—
Pauntley.	" "	24	77	1	1	3
Redmarley.	" "	103	332	—	—	—
	Malvern U.D.C.	15	48	—	—	—
Rudford.	Glos. Corporation.	41	132	—	—	—
Staunton.	" "	79	254	—	—	—
Taynton.	" "	22	71	—	—	—
Tibberton.	" "	55	177	—	—	—
Upleadon.	" "	56	180	—	—	—
	TOTAL	1533	4934	13	48	154

During the year a further 163 houses were provided with main  
water supplies, and the very considerable provision of new mains is  
exceedingly satisfactory.



## SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND REFUSE COLLECTION.

Most sewage disposal in the District is on the "conservancy" system, i.e., householders dispose of their own sewage. The Council's sewage disposal plants are as follows:-

- i. Newent Town. The main sewage works are in Cleeve Lane and as reported before, are practically valueless as regards their supposed function of sewage purification. The Council have had the advice of their Consulting Engineer which is that entirely new works are necessary. This is as far as the matter, which is most urgent, has progressed. It is hoped that steps will be taken to implement our Consultant's advice, as delay will inevitably mean higher costs. There are two other smaller works (Cadbury's and Lancaster Terrace).
- ii. Dymock Village. These comparatively new works can cater for most of the village and are satisfactory. 30 to 40 houses are connected to it and the school will be connected up early in 1956.
- iii. Corse and Staunton. These new works are satisfactory, 12 Council houses and a number of private ones being connected to it.
- iv. Redmarley. The Council's works serve the 16 Council houses and two private houses. A village ditch is the only method of sewage disposal for a number of houses, and is cleansed by the Council. It is not satisfactory.

### Public Lavatories.

These are situated at Newent and Dymock, and on the whole are satisfactory.

### Refuse Collection.

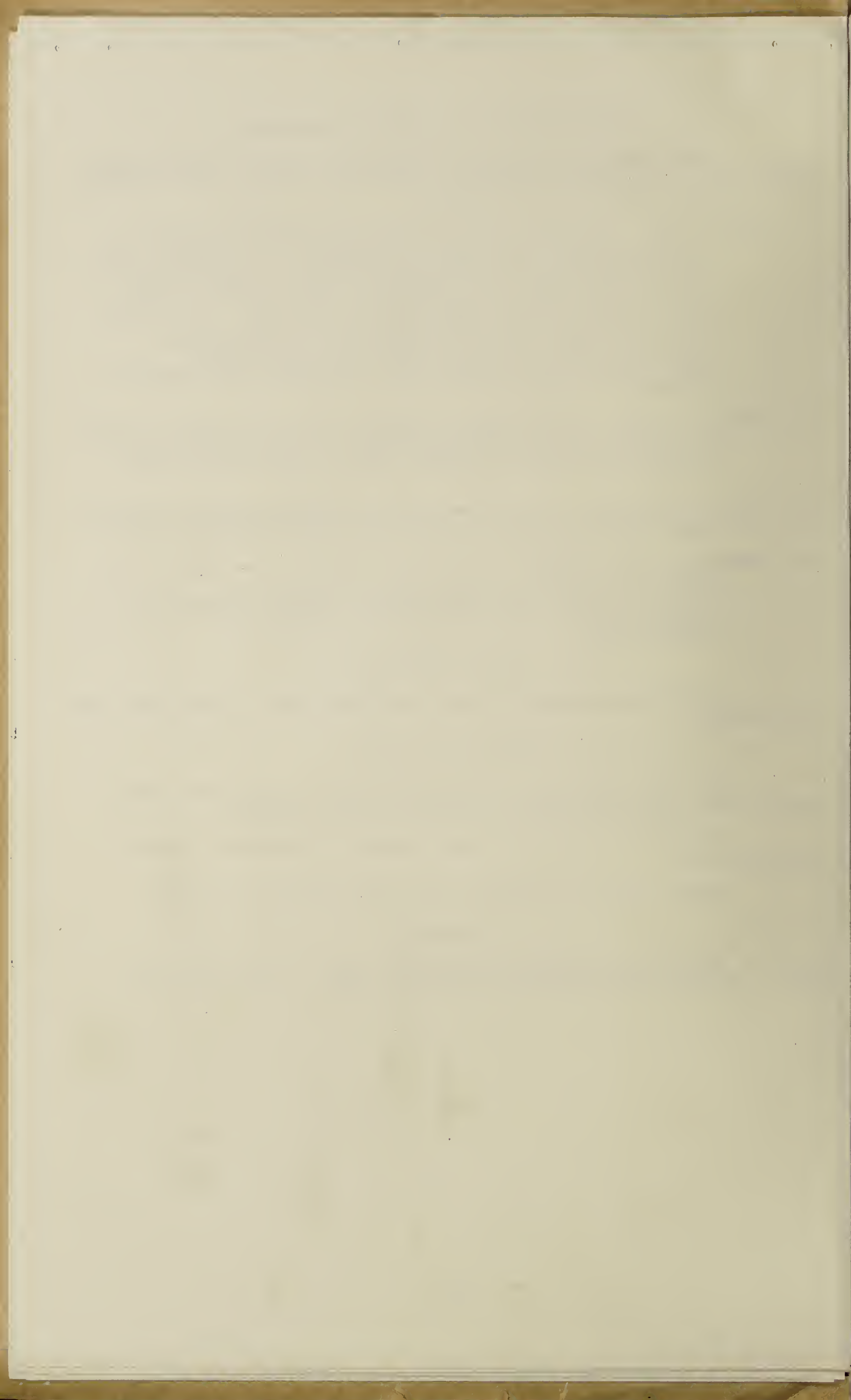
The whole District is scavenged, weekly in the Newent Town Lighting Area and four-weekly in the rest of the District.

Tips now in use are at Corse, Dymock, Highleadon, Malswick and Tibberton.

Trade refuse is collected from some premises on payment.

### Salvage.

There was an increased demand for paper salvage during the year. 44 tons were collected and sold for £348.





## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

A summary of the work carried out by the Public Health Department is given in the following table.

Table 6.

	No. of Inspections.	Notices Served.		Defects remedied after Notice.	
		Informal.	Formal.	Informal.	Formal.
Dwelling Houses.	1538	98	1	82	1
Milk and Dairies.	18	—	—	—	—
Factories etc.	96	3	—	3	—
Bakehouses.	22	4	—	4	—
Food Premises.	68	5	—	5	—
Slaughterhouses.	125	6	—	6	—
Water Supplies.	159	17	—	14	—
Drainage & Sewerage.	563	23	—	21	—
Infectious Disease.	8	Disinfection carried out when necessary			
Pests.	424	10	—	10	—
Miscellaneous.	1379	12	—	12	—
TOTAL	4400	178	1	157	1

### SHOPS ACT, 1950.

Responsibility for the administration of Section 38, sub-sections 3, 4 and 5 were delegated to this Authority by the County Council in 1952. These sub-sections deal with the health conditions of shop workers.

### PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

No licences were issued during the year.

### OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades in the District.

### PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACTS, 1928-1936.

40 licences were issued for the storage of petroleum spirit and one for the storage of calcium carbide.

### CAMPING SITES.

6 licences were issued during the year for individual caravans, and there are now 37 current licences in the District. They comply with the requirements of the Public Health Act, 1936.

### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No complaints were received during the year.

### SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

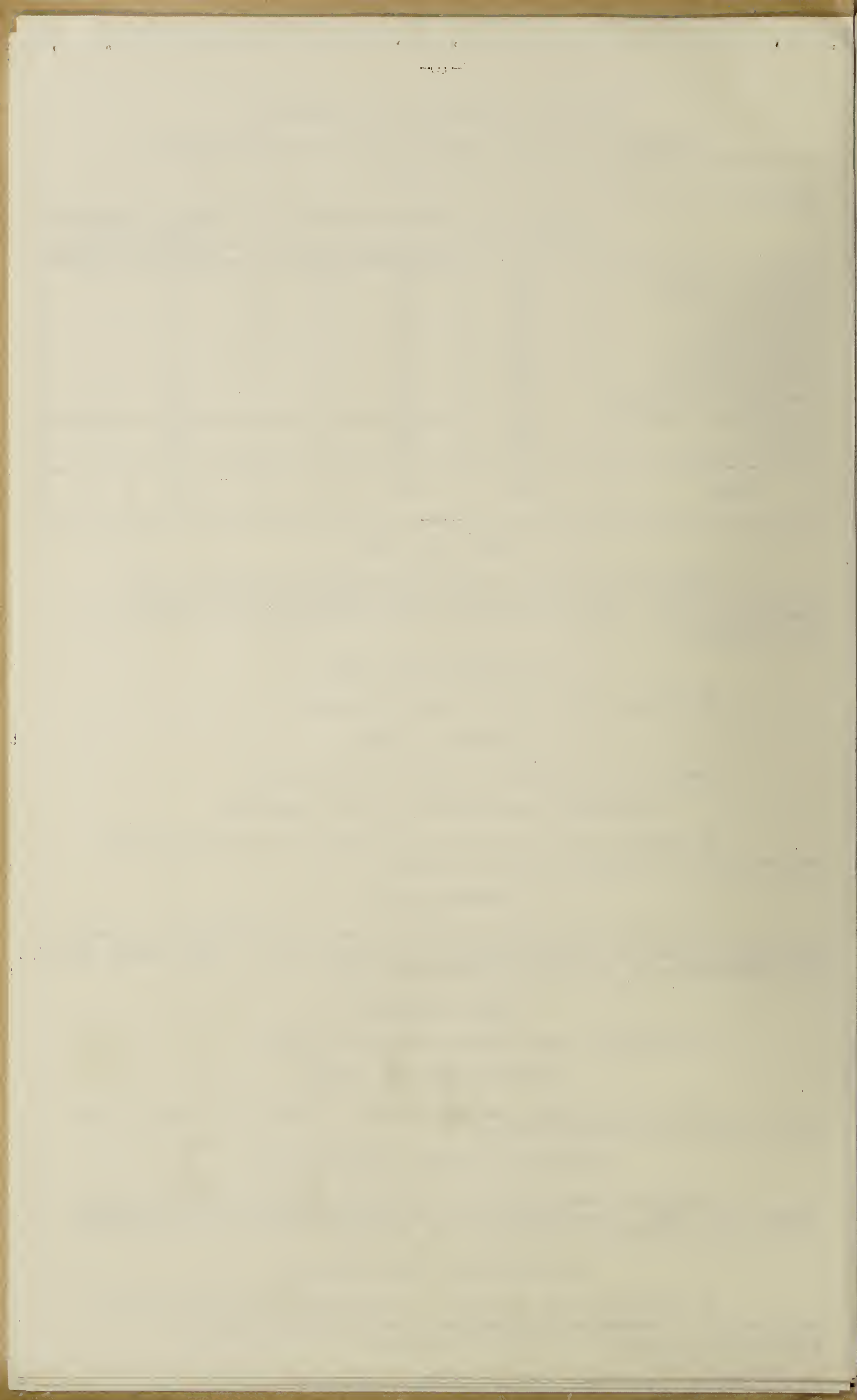
There are no public swimming baths. Some use is made of the River Leadon for bathing purposes.

### POLLUTION OF RIVERS, STREAMS, ETC.

The River Severn Board, an authority created under the River Boards Act, 1948, is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Rivers Pollution Prevention Act of 1876.

### DISINFESTATION (BED BUGS ETC).

2 complaints were received and the necessary disinfection carried out. Verminous infestation is now quite rare and is practically confined to "problem" families.



PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Report by the Sanitary Inspector.

During the year the following work was carried out:-

Table 7.

	Inspections.	Treatments.
Private Dwellings.	143	20
Council Houses.	32	-
Farms.	52	G. A. E. C.
Business Premises.	120	3
Sewers.	14	Nil
Refuse Tips.	63	8
TOTAL	424	31

Details of work carried out on Sewers and Refuse Tips.

Table 8.

Sewers and Works.	Action Taken.	Result.
Cleeve Lane Sewage Works.	Test Baited.	Clear.
Cadbury's Sewage Works.	Test Baited.	Clear.
Lancaster Terrace Sewage Works.	Test Baited.	Clear.
Newent Town Sewers.	Test Baited.	Clear.
Dymock Sewerage System.	Test Baited.	Clear.

Table 9.

Refuse Tips.	Action Taken.	Result.
Dymock Refuse Tip.	Test Baited (2 treatments).	Clear.
Highleadon Refuse Tip.	Test Baited (1 treatment).	Clear.
Malswick Tip.	Test Baited (5 treatments).	Under Observation.
Corse.	Test Baited (1 treatment)	Clear.
Tibberton.	Test Baited (1 treatment)	Clear.

When this Council carries out treatments at private dwellings or business premises at the request of the owner/occupier, charges are made to cover the full cost of the treatments, except in the case of old age pensioners.

The Council have no arrangements to carry out disinfection by contract.





## SCHOOLS.

Hygiene defects are noted at the yearly school medical inspections and are reported to the County Medical Officer of Health. All the schools in the District have main water supplies and 7 have water closet lavatories. Schools with old fashioned types of lavatories are:-

Earth Closets.	Redmarley Lowbands.
Buckets.	Bromsberrow, Corse and Staunton.

The cost of converting these to water closets will be very considerable.

## HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

By the Council.	16
By Private Enterprise.	<u>23</u>
Total	<u>39</u>

Council houses under construction:-

Picklenash, Newent.	32 Traditional.
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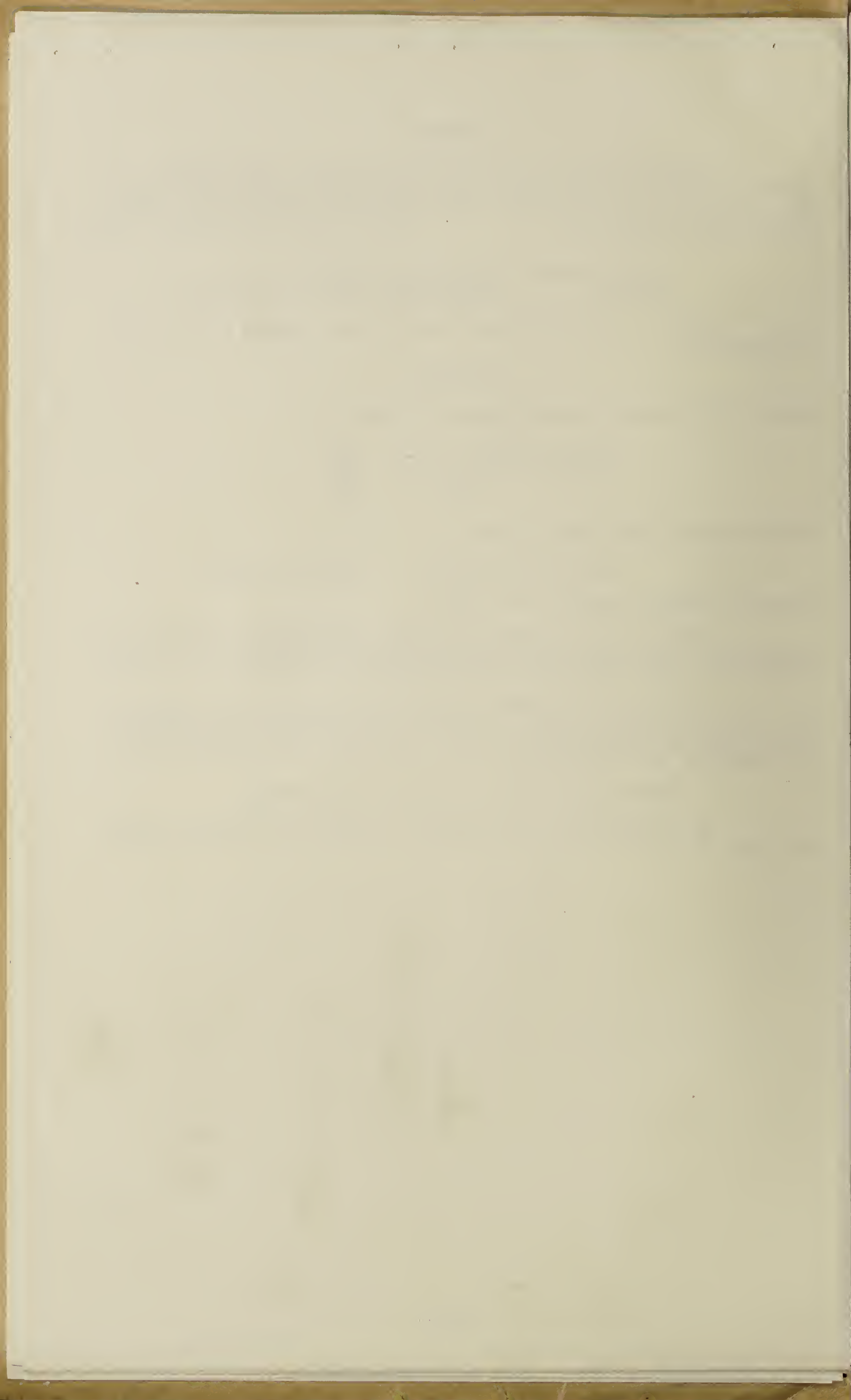
Council's Housing Proposals for 1956:-

Owing to the proposed Government reduction of subsidies, the Council have not formulated a complete scheme but anticipate erecting 6 houses at Corse and 6 houses at Taynton.

The Council owned 297 houses at the end of 1955, which is a very small increase, in view of the facts that there are 87 totally unfit houses in the District and that there were 192 applicants for re-housing at the end of 1955.

Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

It is doubtful if any change in conditions occurred during the year.



## HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

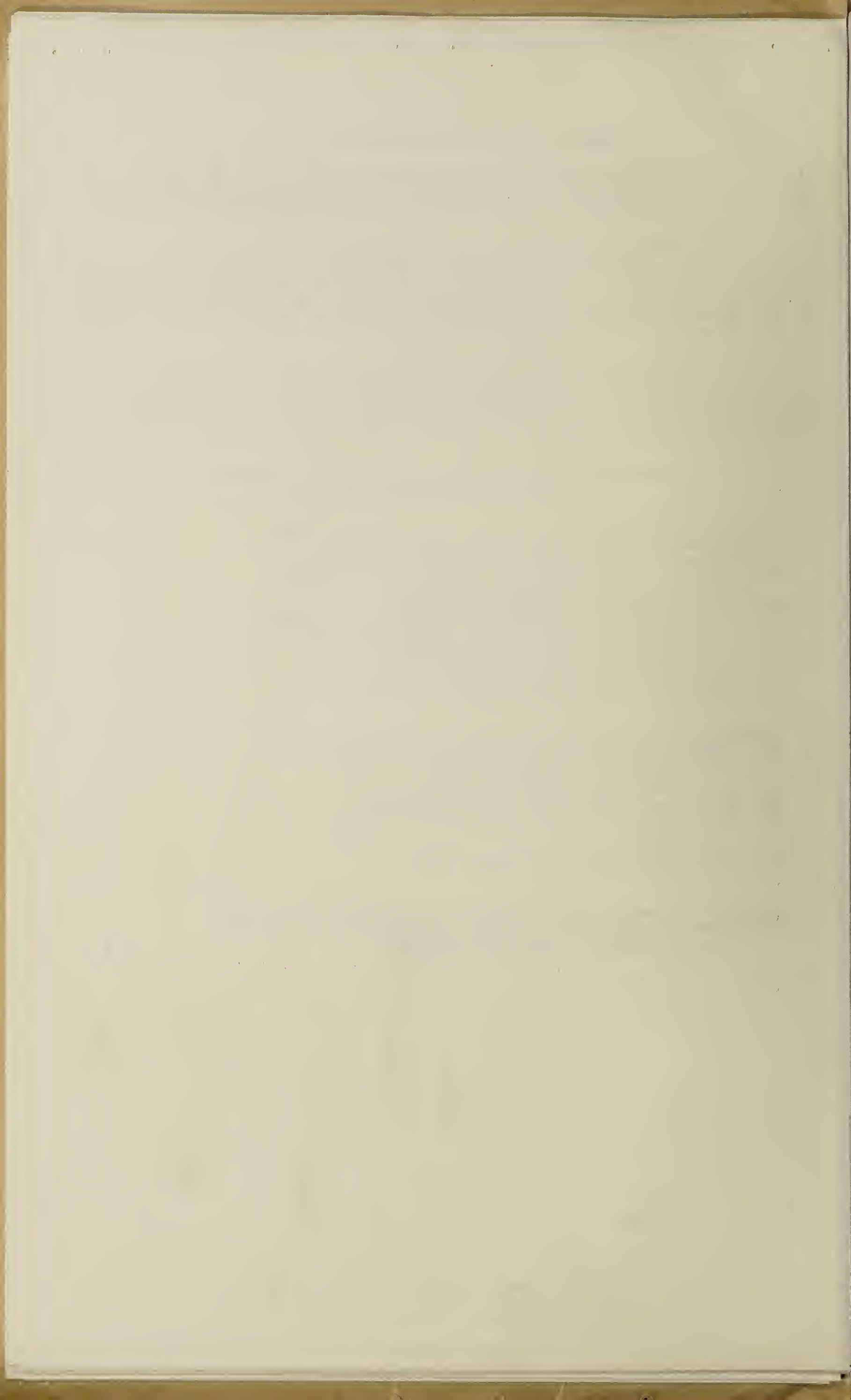
Part 1 of this Act required Local Authorities to submit proposals for dealing with unfit houses in their Districts considered only fit for demolition or for inclusion in clearance areas.

A total of 87 houses was considered to come in these categories and this figure has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government with the proposal that they be demolished during a period of 6 years. Additions or amendments to this figure can be made to the Ministry if and when considered necessary, but it makes a start in the Council's slum clearance programme.

The housing ideal in a District is to have all houses satisfying Model Byelaw Standards, and even when the Council have dealt with the above 87 houses, there will still be another batch of the worst houses in the District to be dealt with, and so on, for, I am afraid, a good many years.

### Statutory Action during the Year with respect to totally unfit houses.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Housing Act, 1936, Section 11 - Demolition Orders.  |   |
| (a) Number of demolition orders recommended.   | 4 |
| (b) Number of demolition orders made by Council.   | - |
| (c) Number of undertakings accepted not to use dwellings for human habitation.   | 6 |
| (d) Number of houses on which a demolition order was operative but where application for reconditioning was accepted (Section 5, Housing Repairs and Rents Act). | - |
| (e) Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal action.  | - |
| 2. Housing Act, 1936, Section 25 - Clearance Areas.  |   |
| (a) Number of houses demolished in Clearance of Compulsory Purchase Areas.   | - |
| (b) Clearance Orders made during the year.   | - |
| (c) Clearance Orders under consideration.  | - |
| (d) Compulsory Purchase Orders made during the year.   | - |
| (e) Compulsory Purchase Orders under consideration.  | - |
| 3. Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.  |   |
| (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.  | 3 |





## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

In Ministry of Health Circular 1/54 a request was made that the Public Health Department include a detailed report on food premises in the District. Table 10 gives the particulars asked for.

Table 10.

Type of Business.	Total Number.	No. of Inspections.	Remarks.
Cafes & Canteens.	16	41	This includes school canteens.
Grocery and Provision Shops.	47	109	This includes sweet shops and chemists.
Ice Cream Vendors.	11	11	Registered under S.14 Food & Drugs Act, 1938.
Butchers Shops.	5	48	No shops are registered under S.14 Food & Drugs Act, 1938. (sausage making etc).
Fishmongers.	2	6	This includes fried and wet fish.
Bakehouses.	4	22	Three of these are small and old fashioned.
Licensed Premises.	20	10	Improvements have been carried out in recent years.
Dairies.	3	18	Registered under Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949.
Wholesale Premises (Food Manufacture)	Nil	Nil	Registered under S.14 Food & Drugs Act, 1938.
TOTAL	108	265	

Generally speaking, the standards of the food premises mentioned in Table 10 are satisfactory.

Disposal of condemned food is a very minor matter, and is dealt with by incineration, burial etc. Suitable meat condemned at the slaughterhouses is utilised at the Ledbury Hunt Kennels.

### Milk Supplies.

This District is practically entirely agricultural with nearly 300 milk producers. Most of the milk produced is consumed outside the District and is taken up to the City of Gloucester for pasteurising, or processed at Messrs. Cadbury's factory at Frampton-on-Severn.

The general supervision of dairy farm premises and milk production is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The Council have powers under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, with regard to the spread of infectious disease by milk. No action was necessary during the year.

The Council is responsible for registration and licences as shown in Tables 11 and 12.

Under the Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) Order, 1956, Newent Rural District is being declared a "Specified Area", from April 10th, 1956. From that date the only milk which can be sold retail has to be either Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised. This is an important Public Health advance.

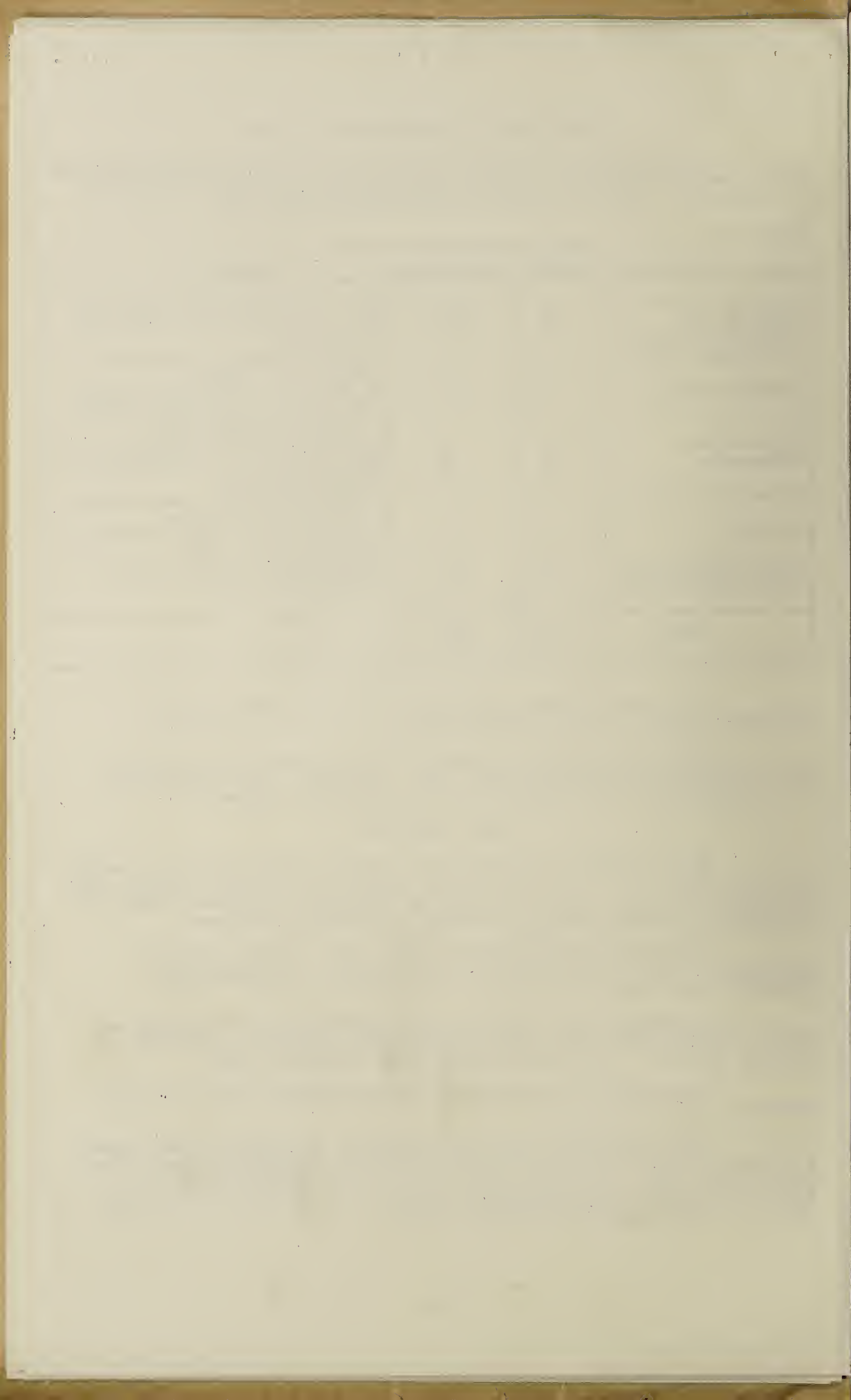


Table 11. Issue of Licences for Milk Dealers.

Classification of Milk.	Dealers' Licences.	Supplementary Licences.
Accredited.	-	-
Tuberculin Tested.	4	2
Pasteurised.	2	2
Sterilised.	-	-
Non-Designated.	-	-

Note:- Supplementary Licences are issued to dealers who distribute milk from premises situated outside the District.

Table 12. Milk Registrations.

No. of milk distributors registered.	6
No. of dairy premises registered (other than dairy farms).	3

Table 13. Retail Milk Sampling.

Nature of Test.	Results of Examination.	
	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Coliform of plate count (cleanliness).	) All milk sold in the District is subject to sampling both by this Department and the County Public Health Dept.	
Methylene Blue (keeping quality).		
Biological (presence of Tb. etc).		
Phosphatase (efficiency of pasteurisation).		

Anthrax Order, 1938. Foot and Mouth Disease.

No suspected cases of Anthrax were notified during the year.

MEAT.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924-1952.

Slaughterhouses.

There are two slaughterhouses in use in the District at Newent and Dymock.

It will be seen from Table 14 that quite a considerable amount of slaughtering takes place and it is very satisfactory to note that all carcasses were inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933-1954.

16 slaughtermen are licensed in the District.



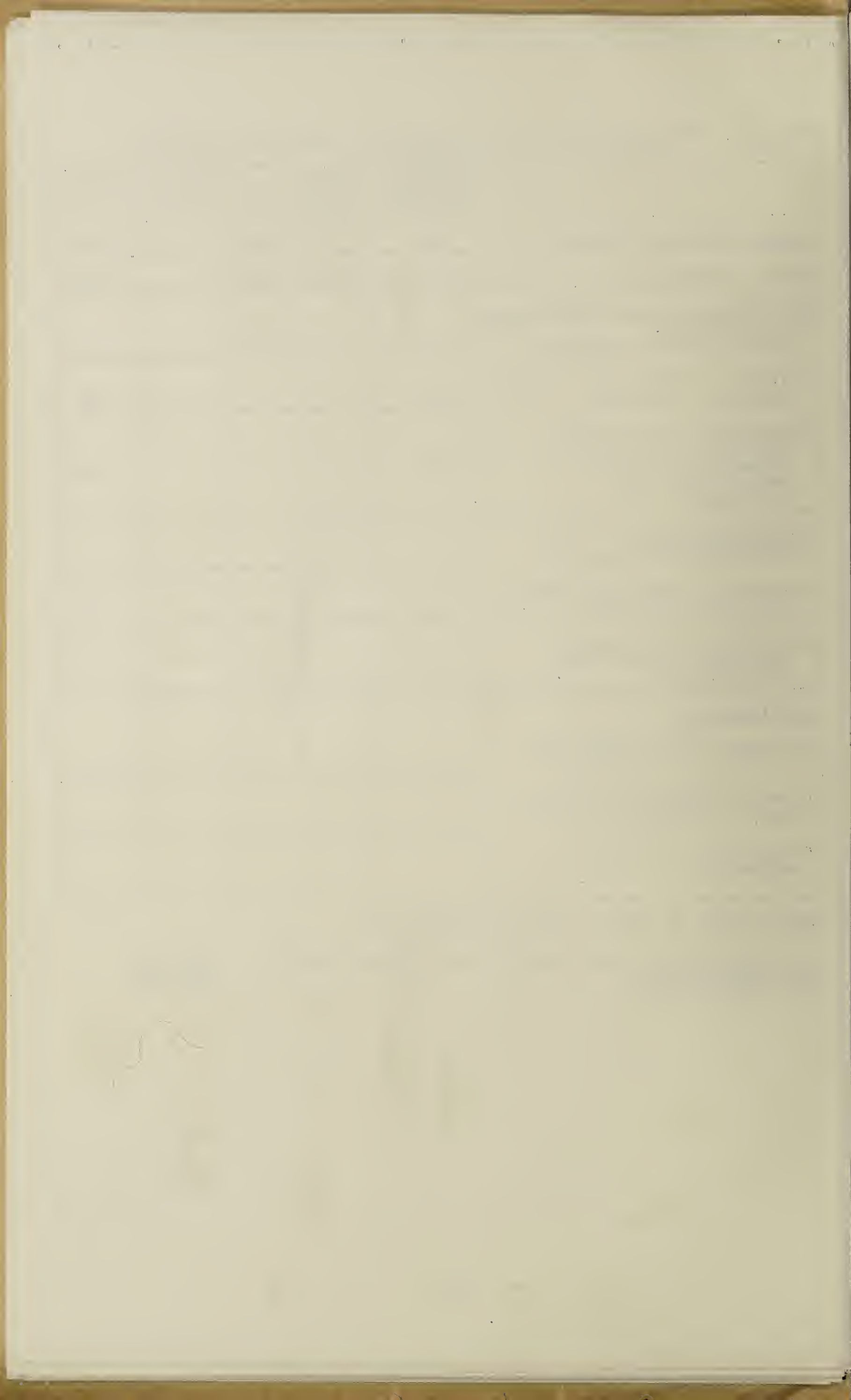


Table 14. Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in part.

	Cattle including Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.	Total.
Number killed (if known).	147	355	112	—	614
Number inspected.	147	355	112	—	614
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>					
Whole carcases condemned.	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	40	—	—	—	40
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	20.7	—	—	—	20.7
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcases condemned.	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	5	—	1	—	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	3.4	—	0.9	—	4.3
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned.	—	—	—	—	—

Total weight of meat or organs condemned for:—

i. All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci.	768 lbs.
ii. Tuberculosis.	230 lbs.
iii. Cysticercosis.	—



## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

This Department is notified when shops or individuals suspect that articles of food are unfit for human consumption.

Table 15 shows the articles of food condemned during the year.

Table 15.

Articles.	Non-Preserved.	Preserved or Tinned.
Meat.	344 lbs.	10 tins.
Milk.		1 tin.
Vegetables.		7 tins.
Fruit and Fruit Juices.	50 lbs.	30 tins.
Soup.		2 tins.
Jam.		3 tins.
Fish.	32 lbs. 8 ozs.	2 tins.
		8 lbs. 7 ozs.

Of the fresh meat, over 300 lbs. was condemned in two carcasses (not slaughtered in the District) owing to bone taint.

The amount of tinned or preserved food condemned shows a considerable reduction. This is probably partly due to better quality and partly due to the fact that the retailer now has to woo the customer and the wholesaler has to woo the retailer, instead of vice versa as it was a few years ago. The result is that any doubtful food is probably exchanged by the retailer on his own initiative.

### Ice Cream.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc) Regulations, 1947 & 1948.

During the year no ice cream was manufactured in the District. There are 11 licensed retailers, of which two manufacture their own ice cream outside the District, while the other retailers purchase from large wholesalers.

### Bakehouses.

There are 4 bakehouses in the District, a reduction of 2 on last year.

There is one at Newent and Dymock and two at Corse. The one at Dymock is modernised and satisfactory, but the others are of old construction.

A considerable amount of bread consumed is manufactured in large modern bakeries outside the District.

### Adulteration.

The relevant sections of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are administered by the County Council.

### Outbreaks of Food Poisoning.

During the year, no notifications of cases of food poisoning were received.





# ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Table 16.

1. Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health.

Premises.	No. of premises in Register.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Written Notices.	No. of occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sec. 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	23	45	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	27	38	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers).	7	15	-	-
TOTAL	57	96	-	-

Table 17.

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	No. of cases where defects were found.			No. of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted.	
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. I.	by H.M. I.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1).	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2).	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Tem: (S.3).	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Vent: (S.4).	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6).	-	-	-	-	-
Latrines (S.7).					
(a) insufficient.	3	3	-	1	-
(b) unsuitable or defective.	-	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including Homework).	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	3	-	1	-

Outwork Sections 110 and 111).

No outworkers were reported in the District during the year.



## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

### Diphtheria.

The following table shows the number of children immunised by the County Staff and General Practitioners in 1955.

Table 18.

Primary immunisation (usually during infancy)	Maintenance immunisations (usually during school life)	Total
119	89	208

Diphtheria is now, thanks to immunisation which this Council started in their area in 1937, almost a disease of the past. In 1936 there were 57,796 cases in England and Wales, whereas in 1955 there were only 161.

As all cases of diphtheria need hospital treatment, the great financial saving to the Country is very obvious, and this is apart from the saving of life where the deaths have dropped from over 3,000 in 1936 to 11 in 1955. No child immunised died.

It is not yet the time to reduce our efforts towards mass immunisation in spite of the fact that there has been no case of diphtheria in the District since 1949.

### Whooping Cough.

In 1955 the County Council adopted an official scheme for the immunisation of infants against whooping cough.

This scheme involves 3 injections and is carried out either at the Child Welfare Centres or at doctor's surgeries. It will be noted that in 1955 whooping cough was our commonest notifiable infectious disease.

### Small Pox and Typhoid.

There were no cases, and no contacts requiring supervision were notified as coming into the District.

### Infantile Paralysis (Acute polio-myelitis).

There were no cases during the year, the last case being in 1953.

### Food Poisoning.

There were no outbreaks or cases notified during the year.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN SCHOOLS.

Table 19 shows the incidence of infectious disease according to weekly returns submitted during term time by Headteachers.

The figures cannot be considered absolutely accurate as many cases are reported on hearsay. The table is of interest as it shows the incidence of chicken pox and mumps which are not notified by General Practitioners.





# INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN SCHOOLS.

Table 19.

School.	Average No. on Register.	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Chicken Pox	Mumps	Influenza
Bromsberrow.	27	—	—	—	1	—	—
Corse.	51	—	2	10	—	—	—
Hartpury.	54	—	—	—	—	1	—
Lowbands. (Redmarley)	51	—	—	12	—	—	—
Newent. (Grammar)	488	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fauntley.	27	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newent. (Picklenash)	311	3	1	—	1	—	—
Staunton.	38	—	—	10	1	—	—
Tibberton.	38	—	—	—	21	3	—
Upleadon.	27	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dymock.	143	—	3	—	41	—	—
TOTAL	1255	3	6	32	65	5	—

In accordance with the recommendations of the Joint Memorandum issued by the Ministries of Health and Education, it was not considered necessary to close any schools because of infectious disease.



# TUBERCULOSIS.

Tuberculosis has become a much less serious disease in the last few decades, and is not now the important cause of death that it used to be. Owing to modern medical and surgical treatment, fewer people die of tuberculosis, but this means that more cases survive and are under treatment and for some years may not be able to lead a normal working life.

Tuberculosis is now like other infectious diseases and notifiable weekly to the Registrar General and the responsibility for keeping a correct register of cases has devolved on the Regional Hospital Boards. However, it is still necessary for the Local Authority to keep a register, from the aspects of housing, food production and After Care help.

In view of the above it has been possible to simplify and make more interesting the tables on tuberculosis.

Table 20. New, In Transfer cases, Deaths and Number remaining on the Register on 31st December, 1955.

	Respiratory.		Meninges & C.N.S.		Other forms.		Total.
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
New Cases	2	2	—	1	—	1	6
In-transfer cases.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
On Register 31.12.55.	17	10	—	1	4	3	35

Table 21. This Table shows the New Cases, In Transfers and Deaths for Tuberculosis, for the last 19 years.

Year.	Pop.of District.	New and I.T. Cases.	Per 1,000 Pop.	Deaths.	Per 1,000 Pop.	No. on Register.	Per 1,000 Pop.
1937.	7220	10	1.39	7	0.97	34	4.7
1938.	7233	11	1.52	4	0.55	35	4.8
1939.)	No Annual Reports or figures available.						
1940.)							
1941.)							
1942.)							
1943.	8204	11	1.34	5	0.60	61	7.4
1944.	7832	10	1.28	1	0.12	69	8.9
1945.	7685	14	1.82	3	0.39	51	6.6
1946.	7827	15	1.90	7	0.89	48	6.1
1947.	7766	6	0.77	3	0.38	41	5.2
1948.	8135	8	0.98	4	0.49	34	4.1
1949.	8202	5	0.60	3	0.30	34	4.1
1950.	8361	7	0.84	2	0.24	29	3.4
1951.	8220	9	1.09	1	0.12	33	4.0
1952.	8121	9	1.10	—	—	36	4.4
1953.	8146	8	0.98	1	0.12	33	4.0
1954.	8210	6	0.73	1	0.12	36	4.4
1955.	8270	6	0.73	—	—	35	4.2

The death rate in England and Wales in 1955 from tuberculosis was 0.146 per 1,000 population.





Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 172)

No action has been necessary under the above Regulations and Act.

#### Rehousing of Tuberculosis Cases.

As good housing is one of the essentials in the cure and prevention of tuberculosis, cases where this is unsatisfactory are recommended to the Public Health Committee for rehousing. Of the 35 cases in the District, 6 are living in Council houses.

#### Tuberculosis After Care.

A Joint Committee serves this District, the Borough of Tewkesbury and the Rural District of Gloucester. Except for a grant for stationery, postages etc., it is entirely dependent on voluntary subscriptions, of which every penny goes to assist tuberculosis cases. It serves a very useful purpose, and so far, no deserving case has been refused help. This Council's staff have formed a contributory scheme and so far have given £16 to this Committee.

It will be seen from Table 21 that in recent years there has been a very satisfactory reduction, both in the yearly number of new cases and in the number of deaths; although the total number of cases of tuberculosis shows little change except for an increase during the War years. It is very pleasing to note that there was not a single death from tuberculosis in 1955.



Table 22.

## NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Infectious Disease.	Number of Cases by Age Groups.										Distribution of Cases by Parishes.															
	0 +	1 +	3 +	5 +	10 +	15 +	25 +	45 +	65 +	Age not known.	Total.	Bromsberrow.	Corse.	Dymock.	Hartpury.	Kempley.	Newent.	Oxenhall.	Pauntley.	Redmarley.	Rudford.	Staunton.	Taynton.	Tibberton.	Upleadon.	
Scarlet Fever.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (excl. G.M.).	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis {paralytic}.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis {non-para.}	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis {respiratory}.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" {meninges}.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" {other}.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Encephalitis {infective}.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" {post-inf}.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fuereperal pyrexia.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. pneumonia (prim. or 'Flu).	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-typhoid fever.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric fever.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food poisoning.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria (contr. E. & W.).	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS.	6	23	31	45	8	1	2	1	—	—	117	2	14	22	11	1	15	—	—	19	1	29	2	—	1	

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# CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DISTRICT IN 1955.

Table 23 gives the causes of death in the District in accordance with the abbreviated list of 36 groups of the World Health Organisation Nomenclature Regulations, 1948.

Table 23.

Causes of Death.	Male.	Female.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other.	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease.	—	—
4. Diphtheria.	—	—
5. Whooping Cough.	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections.	—	—
7. Acute polio-myelitis.	—	—
8. Measles.	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.	—	—
*10. (Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	2	—
11. (Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	1	—
12. (Malignant neoplasm, breast.	—	1
13. (Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	—	—
14. (Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	3	6
15. (Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	—	—
16. Diabetes.	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.	2	7
18. Coronary disease, angina.	4	3
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	—	2
20. Other heart disease.	6	11
21. Other circulatory disease.	4	1
22. Influenza.	—	—
23. Pneumonia.	2	1
24. Bronchitis.	4	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	—	—
31. Congenital malformations.	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	2	4
33. Motor vehicle accidents.	1	—
34. All other accidents.	—	—
35. Suicide.	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of War.	—	—
TOTAL	33	39

## Explanatory note.

\*Neoplasm equals cancer.

## Death Rates from Cancer per 1,000 population.

	England and Wales.		Newent Rural District.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Cancer of Lung etc.	0.69	0. 1	0.12	Nil
Other Cancer.	1.56	1.77	0. 6	0.84





